GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1944

by

G. E. DONOVAN
M. Sc., M. B., B. Ch., B. A. O., D. P. H.

Medical Officer of Health.

GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Brinley Edwards, J.P.
Vice Chairman: P. J. Davies.

Councillors:

S. Richards, J.P.
Alderman W. H. Davies, J.P.
M. H. Bevan, J.P.
Glyn Thomas, J.P.
William Austin, J.P.
T. A. Stephens.
Joshua Owen.
Col. F. S. Morgan.
S. E. John.
Llewellyn Davies.
G. T. R. Taylor, J.P.
G. A. Grove.
P. P. Jones.
A. J. Griffiths.
Ambrose Guy.
Samuel Griffiths.
W. G. Tucker.
Robert Guy.
S. J. Clement.
Graham John.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman: William Austin, J.P.
Vice Chairman: Alderman W. H. Davies, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Chairman: Alderman W. H. Davies, J.P.
Vice Chairman: Ambrose Guy.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

G. E. DONOVAN, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

G. A. Jones, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor:

W. Snook, R.F.N., S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert.

Clerk:

P. Tuxworth.

Garngoch Isolation Hospital:

Medical Superintendent: G. E. Donovan, M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Matron: D. Adams, R.F.N., S.R.N.

GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

GORSEINON.

To The Chairman and Members of the
GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1944, which is the fifth of its series.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation which I have received from the Council, the Staff of my own department, the Heads of the other departments of the council, Dr. A. R. Culley, County Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. T. W. Wade, Chief Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health.

Your obedient servant,

G. E. DONOVAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

Social Conditions and Industries.

The area is chiefly agricultural with the exception of the North Eastern end of the Peninsula which is more or less industrial.

At Three Crosses there is a colliery that employs approximately 200 men who are drawn from surrounding areas.

At Penclawdd, the Cockle Industry is thriving, about 200 people being engaged on the work.

The Proof Range which is a war measure has employed a considerable number of persons drawn from all parts, but, unfortunately, it has been decided that the whole place be closed down on the 31st March, 1946. It is hoped that steps will be taken to induce the powers that be to bring in some light industry in its place.

Area and Population.

The District is divided into 17 parishes, the acreage of each parish being as follows:-

Bishopston.	2598	acres.
Llanmadoc.	1463	acres.
Cheriton.	1427	acres.
Ilston.	3109	acres.
Reynoldston.	1069	acres.
Knelston.	548	acres.
Llangennith.	3373	acres.
Llanrhidian Higher.	5212	acres.
Llanrhidian Lower.	6125	acres.
Nicholaston.	517	acres.
Penmaen.	1005	acres.
Oxwich.	1342	acres.
Pennard.	2862	acres.
Penrice.	2127	acres.
Porteynon.	1151	acres.
Llandewi.	2010	acres.
Rhossilli.	2215	acres.
	38153	acres.

The estimated resident population of the district for 1944 is given by the Registrar-General as 11,000.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 3,030, and the rateable value of the district was £34,460, which represents a sum of £123. as the yield of a penny rate.

Births.

The number of live births registered for the district during 1944 was 176, being 95 males and 81 females, representing a birth rate of 16.0 per thousand of the estimated population. This rate is slightly lower than that recorded for England and Wales which is given as 17.6 per thousand of the population. In 1943, the net total births amounted to 187 with a birth rate of 16.2 per thousand of the population; thus this year, there is a decrease of 11 births, or 0.2 below the rate recorded for the preceding year.

4 male illegitimate children were registered and 5 females, a proportion of 51.1 per thousand registered live births.

The stillbirths numbered 5, that is 1 male and 4 females, which is equivalent to a rate of 27.6 per thousand total (live and still) births.

Deaths.

The net total deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 120, 66 males and 54 females. This represents a death rate of 10.9 per thousand of the population, and is slightly lower than the figure of 11.6 per thousand of the population given for England and Wales. 139 deaths occurred during 1943, giving a death rate of 12.0 per thousand of the population; thus this year there is a decrease of 19 deaths, or 1.1 below the rate recorded for the preceding year.

There were 10 deaths in children under 1 year, during 1944, which gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 57 per thousand total live births.

2 of the 9 illegitimate children born, died under the age of 1 year, representing a death rate of 222 per thousand illegitimate live births, whilst 8 out of the 167 legitimate children born, died under the age of 1 year, representing a death rate of 47 per thousand legitimate live births.

No deaths were registered in the area as being due to Puerperal Sepsis, but one occurred from other maternal causes, giving an incidence rate of 5.5 per thousand live and still births.

No deaths occurred from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under the age of 2 years. The rate for England and Wales was 4.8 per thousand live births.

4 deaths were due to Pneumonia, 7 to Influenza, 3 to Bronchitis, and 1 from other forms of Respiratory Diseases, giving a total of 15 deaths from all forms of Respiratory Diseases, apart from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 1.3 per thousand of the population.

4 deaths were registered from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system, and 3 from other forms of Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.63 per thousand of the population.

4 deaths were registered from Violence apart from Suicide, there being no Suicidal deaths.

Cancer and all other forms of malignant disease caused 19 deaths, giving a death rate of 1.7 per thousand of the population.

The rates of deaths from Infectious Diseases in 1944 are as follows:-

	GOWER.		ENGLAND AND WALES.
DISEASES.	No. of deaths.	Rate per 1,000 population.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Smallpox.	0	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria.	0	0.00	0.02
Measles.	0	0.00	0.01
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0	0.00	0.00
Influenza.	7	0.63	0.12
Cerebrospinal Fever.	0	0.00	Not available.

Infectious Diseases.

There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year. It may be stated that the incidence of Diphtheria in this area is low due to the extensive Immunisation Campaign.

The percentage of children immunised in this area is as follows:-

Children aged 1 to 5 years. 87.9%.
Children aged 5 to 15 years. 98.1%.

The number of children completely immunised against Diphtheria during the year 1944 was as follows:-

194 Pre-school children.
54 School children.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that Diphtheria Immunisation gives nearly 100% protection and that in my opinion a parent or guardian who knowingly deprives a child of this protection is guilty, to say the least, of gross negligence and that is using a mild term. There is no reason why anyone in this area can state that they are not aware of the facilities available to them for immunisation. Most of the children have been immunised by myself.

Scarlet Fever.

7 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified to my department during the year, 6 of which were admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

The removal of cases of Scarlet Fever to Isolation Hospital in this district, depends upon home conditions. If the home conditions are such that in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health it is safe to nurse the patient at home, this is done, but if the home conditions are not so, the patient is admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever is caused by the Haemolytic Streptococcus and produces a typical rash in the patient. Many a case may be infected with this organism resulting only in sore throat with absence of rash and strawberry tongue, hence the difficulty in the detection and control of carriers of this disease.

Anti-Toxins.

Supplies of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria Anti-Toxins are stored at the Police Stations in the district ready for use by any of the General Practitioners.

Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia.

4 cases of Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.36 per thousand of the population. Of these, 4 proved fatal. The rate recorded for England and Wales was 0.97 per thousand of the population.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified. This gives a rate of 5.5 per thousand total (live and still) births, and the rate for England and Wales was 10.34 per thousand.

Respiratory Diseases.

The respiratory diseases such as Influenza, etc. are spread generally by droplet infection. If individuals could be educated not to sneeze or cough, except into a hankerchief, the incidence of these diseases would be greatly reduced.

A fair amount of disease can be attributed to ignorance and economic conditions. Probably, within the next 25 years, these will be greatly reduced by education and the increased standards of living of the common people.

Scabies.

Scabies are treated in this area by the Benzyl Benzoate treatment which is supervised by the Health Visitor. Cases are brought to our notice by the County Medical Officer of Health, Local Medical Practitioners, Health Visitor, and by direct application by the patients who are very appreciative of the facilities given to them.

Venereal Diseases.

Venereal disease is a menace to public health. One of the best means of reducing its incidence is by very generous propaganda. The Ministry of Health has carried out such propaganda throughout the country. The Glamorgan County Council is co-operating to the fullest degree with the local authorities. We are co-operating whole-heartedly with the V.D. campaign.

Many cases are brought to the notice of the public health department. Those who are not attending for treatment are contacted and encouraged to attend a V.D. clinic. Contacts are also requested to attend a clinic.

Wasserman Blood Tests are being done in our Ante-Natal Clinics, as a routine, and the samples of blood are sent to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The nearest clinics for this area are held at Swansea and Port Talbot, and the sessions are as follows:-

Swansea Clinic (Situate at Swansea General and Eye Hospital)

Males.	Monday	2.0 p.m.
	Tuesday	7.30 p.m.
	Friday	10.30 a.m.
Females.	Thursday	1.0 p.m.

Port Talbot Clinic (Situate on the right hand side of the road immediately opposite the exit from G.W.R. Station)

Males.	Monday	2.30 p.m. to 4.30pm. & 5.0pm. to 8.0 pm.
	Thursday	10.30 am. to 1.0 pm. & 2.0 pm. to 4.0 pm.
Females.	Wednesday	10.30 am. to 1.0 pm. & 2.0 pm. to 4.0 pm.
	Thursday	5.0 pm. to 7.0 pm.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

DISEASES.	Number of Cases.													Total cases admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all ages.	Age Periods.													
		Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	5	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

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TUBERCULOSIS.

18 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during 1944. The total number of deaths registered from all forms of Tuberculosis was 7.

The existing arrangements between the Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association, and the General Practitioners of the district appears efficient and satisfactory. All new cases are, as a rule, referred to the Tuberculosis Physician for confirmation of diagnosis, treatment, and for continued observation of progress.

Certain cases are eligible for financial help and those that are not, who need financial help, are referred to the Public Assistance Authorities.

On receipt of a notification of surgical Tuberculosis, the Sanitary Inspector automatically checksup on the milk supply from which district the notification is received.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease are given in the following Table:-

Age Groups.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
15 -	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 -	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
35 -	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	1
45 -	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS.	13	5	1	3	3	1	2	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under this regulation during the year 1944, relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was taken under this section during the year, 1944.

RHEUMATIC FEVER AND RHEUMATIC CARDITIS.

Rheumatic Fever in childhood is the main source of Heart Disease up to the age of 40 years in Britain. It exceeded Tuberculosis as the cause of death up to the age of 20 years. It is estimated that almost 10% of all rejections for service during the war were on account of Heart Disease. The economic loss each year in peace-time could be judged by the fact that the duration of economic activity in these men was no more than 10 years on the average.

It is recognised that poverty and overcrowding are basic causes and that Rheumatic Fever is rare among the children of the well-to-do. Anything done in these directions will reduce the incidence of Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Compulsory notification of Rheumatic Fever is essential for progress, as it would permit its early diagnosis. The London County Council has an excellent scheme for Rheumatic Children. The Public should know that it is very desirable that institutional treatment from the outset and subsequent supervision should be extended to every case of Rheumatic Fever. The facilities in this district are meagre.

C

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by Dr. Sladden at the "Beck" Laboratory, Swansea. All Medical Practitioners within the district can have any sample examined free of cost, the cost being borne by the Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance is provided for the removal of Infectious Cases to the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases, Accident and Maternity Cases. The St. John Ambulances at Swansea and Gowerton can be obtained by any member of the public upon payment, if such a member is not a contributor.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. For ordinary sickness or accident, the service of the Queen Victoria Memorial Association Nurses is available in the area. These nurses are paid by the District Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases. In cases of severe epidemics such as Measles or Influenza, helpers can be obtained, and these helpers act under the direction of the Health Visitor.

Premature Babies.

Arrangements have been made with the local hospitals that take in Maternity Cases in this area, to keep in hospital any Infant who is born prematurely. The child is not sent home until it is up to the average weight. If a child is born prematurely at home, the home is visited by the Health Visitor, and if the child requires institutional care, it is immediately sent to the West Glamorgan County Hospital, Penrhiwtyn. If it is safe for the child to stay at home, the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority co-operates in providing blankets, hotwater bottles, etc.

Illegitimate Children.

All these cases are carefully supervised by the Health Department, and suitable institutional treatment is provided if required. The unmarried mother is encouraged to keep her own child if possible, when the home difficulties with the grandparents of the child are smoothed out. It is very desirable that the mother should keep the child as long as possible as no institution is equivalent to even a fair natural affection from the baby's mother. Some cases must be adopted, and the Public Health Department co-operates in seeing that the child is suitably adopted.

Many enquiries are made by adoption societies about the suitability of prospective foster parents in this area. All these cases are thoroughly investigated, and a confidential report is sent to the adoption society.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the district:-

Dunvant	...	held on alternate Tuesdays.
Bishopston	...	held on alternate Tuesdays.
Penclawdd	...	held on alternate Wednesdays.
Llanmorlais	...	held on alternate Wednesdays.
Reynoldston	...	held on alternate Thursdays.

The attendance at the Clinics during 1944 was as follows:-

Dunvant	...	No. on register	...	130	Infants.
		Average Attendance	...	80	"
Bishopston	...	No. on register	...	96	"
		Average Attendance	...	50	"
Penclawdd	...	No. on register	...	116	"
		Average Attendance	...	68	"
Llanmorlais	...	No. on register	...	55	"
		Average Attendance	...	35	"
Reynoldston	...	No. on register	...	48	"
		Average Attendance	...	25	"

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held monthly at Penclawdd and Bishopston. The Midwives attend these clinics with their patients, and the clinics are integrated with the County Ante-Natal Clinic at the West Glamorgan County Hospital, Penrhiwtyn.

Dr. Drummond, Regional Blood Transfusion Officer has asked for Blood Samples to test for the Rh factor. We send to him samples of blood of the pregnant women attending our Ante-Natal Clinics.

School Clinics.

The School Clinics in the district are held at the Gowerton Schools, where the children are treated periodically by the Education Authorities' Medical Officers.

C

Tuberculosis Clinics.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association and patients suffering from this disease attend the dispensary at 10, Grove Place, Swansea, which is open from 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Sanatorium accommodation for the patients of this district is provided at the various Sanatoria in Wales, there being no local sanatorium.

Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Infectious cases in this district are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital, where the facilities provided lend themselves to the adequate nursing of the various cases which are admitted.

During the year, the number of cases admitted comprised 6 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 cases of Dysentery, and 1 case of Pemphigus Neonatorum.

Vaccination.

There are certain risks if the vaccination law is not complied with. It is advisable, especially during wartime, that vaccination should be carried out.

Medical opinion is inclined to the view that in the years after the war, the Vaccination Law may be altered. It is believed that in normal times, Small Pox can be controlled by adequate supervision at the points of entry into the country, quarantine, and vaccination of the people of an area where Small Pox occurs.

C

Hospitals.

The hospitals where treatment is available for the inhabitants of the district are as tabulated below:-

Hospital.	Situation.	Purpose.	Beds.
Gorseinon General and Maternity:	Gorseinon.	General and Maternity.	Medical and Surgical, 60 beds, Children 10, Maternity 10 beds. Ear, Nose and Throat.
Swansea General & Eye Hospital:	Swansea.	General.	Medical and Surgical, Children, Ear, Nose and Throat, Venereal Diseases.
Llanelly & District General Hospital:	Llanelly.	General.	Medical and Surgical, Children, Ear, Nose and Throat.
West Glamorgan County Hospital:	Neath.	General & Maternity.	
	Bridgend.	Mental.	
	Hensol Castle.	Mental.	
Garngoch.	Garngoch Common.	Isolation.	Infectious Diseases. 28 beds & 4 cots.

C

Midwifery and Maternity Service.

Most maternity cases are attended at home by Midwives, while others make use of the Maternity Hospitals, local practitioners being called in if required. Infective cases are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Complicated pregnancies and Obstetrical emergencies are admitted to the West Glamorgan County Hospital, Penrhiwtyn, Neath.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children and Homeless Children.

Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children is provided for by the respective Public Assistance Authorities at Pontardawe and Penmaen.

Health Visitors.

During the year, the Health Visitor paid:

1.	To Expectant Mothers:	First Visits	37
		Total Visits	82
2.	To Children under 1 year of age:	First Visits	161
		Total Visits	1000
3.	To Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.	Total Visits	1163

Infant Life Protection. - Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Any cases coming under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are reported by the Health Visitor.

Orthopaedic Treatment, etc.

Cases of pre-school children are referred to the Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat and Ophthalmic clinics of the Glamorgan County Council for examination and treatment.

It is very desirable that the local council adopt a scale of charges in respect of spectacles, operative treatment and orthopaedic appliances for the assistance of parents who are unable to meet the additional cost of services provided for their children.

C

WATER SUPPLY.

65% of the area is served by the Council's main, the remaining 35% draw water from deep and shallow wells. Most of the surface wells in the area are potentially a source of danger to Public Health. It will be a great advantage, from a Public Health point of view, when the comprehensive Gower Water Scheme is completed.

Number of Samples Taken and Results.

Number.	Results.
35	Satisfactory.
11	Unsatisfactory.
16	Fairly Satisfactory.
11	For Chemical Examination.

MILK.

Milk is a very nutritious food especially for the young. Unfortunately, it can be a vehicle for disease especially Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus.

If the milk is obtained from healthy herds, and the milking done under proper hygienic conditions, and all proper precautions are taken, it should reach the consumer in a safe form.

The general consensus of medical opinion is that as another precaution, all milk should be properly pasteurised. In an area like ours where there is a very high percentage of unpasteurised milk, it is desirable that all milk should be heat treated before giving it to the young. The slight vitamin deficiency which may result can easily be remedied by giving the children supplementary vitamins.

1/3 of the deaths in this country from Tuberculosis in children under 5 years of age are due to the Bovine Organism - 2,000 deaths a year with, of course, a much larger incidence of invalidism.

The American Troops in this country were not allowed to drink milk unless it was both from Tuberculin Tested Herds, and had been pasteurised.

During the year 13 samples of milk produced in this area were submitted for the Tuberculosistest, the results of which were all negative.

More sampling of milk for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli could be carried out but at present the number of samples which can be forwarded to the laboratory are limited by the County Council, due to the shortage of Guinea Pigs.

Bacteriological samples of milk were taken on 29 occasions, and found to be:-

Satisfactory	14
Unsatisfactory	15

HOUSING.

The housing position is extremely acute, and there is considerable overcrowding in the area. There is a substantial number of houses that will be dealt with under the Slum Clearance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the position regarding applicants for council houses is as follows:-

In this area, there are some 60 council houses.

1. There are at present 4 families applying for council houses, who are living in apartments or living through and through with the tenants, or occupiers.

2. In addition, 77 families now residing in other houses have applied for council houses on account of various circumstances.

3. Of the above (1 and 2), 81 families are overcrowded, and the houses are in a bad state of repair.

4. There are 2 families living in apartments where one member is suffering from Tuberculosis where it is desirable that better accommodation be provided.

To meet with the housing emergency, the council contemplates erecting 100 houses, of the three bedroomed , non-parlour type on new sites. During the erection of these houses, the council can then take stock of the housing conditions in the district, and consider their future programmes.

Adequate housing at economic rents is necessary for the maintenance of the health of the community. It is useless giving a family a decent house if it means that due to the high rent, they cannot afford to buy good food.

C

FOOD.

The following foods were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector during the year:

Dates.	86 lbs.
Milk.	15 tins.
Bacon.	28 lbs.
Cabbages.	4 cwts.
Butter.	15 lbs.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, AND MILK AND CREAM REGULATION.

The duties of inspection under the above acts are entrusted to the Officers of the County Police, of and above the rank of Sergeant.

Through the kindness of Superintendent Lyons, I am able to give the following particulars of samples taken and sent to the Public Analyst to be analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., in the Gower Rural District during 1944.

25 milk samples were taken during the year. Of these 21 were genuine, 3 were deficient in milk fat, and one contained added water. Proceedings were instituted in two cases where there was deficiency in milk fat and also in the case of added water, the vendors being fined in each case. In the remaining case of the sample which was slighly deficient in milk fat, the vendor was cautioned by the Clerk to the County Council.

The samples were obtained from Llanmorlais, Three Crosses, Dunvant, Penclawdd and Killay.

COCKLES.

I have many times brought to the notice of the Gower Rural District Council the unsatisfactory way in which the shellfish are gathered in the Gower area. I recommend that this industry should be properly controlled, otherwise it can be a danger to Public Health.

As an immediate and short-term policy, I recommend,

1. Definite suitable places should be allotted both for boiling and washing.

2. Areas known to be near sewage outfalls or any other source of pollution should be banned.

3. Notices should be posted at the selected boiling places stating that the boiling should be continued for a prescribed time. (Experiments are being made on samples of Penclawdd Cockles to determine the minimum time to make the cockles safe.)

4. Water for washing should come only from the Council's piped supply.

5. All cockles must be boiled and a ban should be placed on the exposure of cockles in their shells for food.

6. There should be adequate supervision by the Sanitary Inspector or person specially appointed for the purpose of the boiling and washing processes.

7. The cockles should be prepared and distributed from all cockle areas under aseptic conditions.

The long-term policy would be the installing of proper plant to render shell fish industry safe.

A P P E N D I X.

1. General Statistics.

Area of District.	38,153 acres.
No. of inhabited houses at the end of the year.	3,030.
Rateable Value of District.	£34,460.
Sum represented by 1d. rate.	£123.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1944.	11,000.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births:-	Total	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Legitimate	167	91	76	16.0
Illegitimate	9	4	5	

Still Births:-	Total	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Legitimate	5	1	4	27.6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	

Deaths:-	Total	M.	F.	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
	120	66	54	10.9

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.	-	5.5
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes.	1	
Total.	1	

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	-	57
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	-	47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-	222

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	-	19
Deaths from Measles (all ages).	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).	-	-